

the homestead law. The remainder was located with military warrants and agricultural scrip certified to states for railroads, and sold for cash. The cash receipts from sales and location fees were \$1,019,446. The income from sales during the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1884, was \$678,007 21, against \$836,077 95 receipts during the preceding year. The aggregate of acres surveyed during the year has been equal to the quantity disposed of, and there is open to settlement about 133,000,000 acres of surveyed land.

Numerous discoveries of gold, silver and other mines have been added to the list of many heretofore known ones. The Sierra Nevada and Rocky mountains and the subordinate ranges now teem with enterprising labor, which is being remuneratively. It is estimated that the value of the precious metals sold in that region have, during the year ended, if not exceeded, \$100,000,000 in value.

THE INDIAN SYSTEM.

It was recommended in my last annual message that our Indian system be reconsidered. Congress, at its last session, acting on the recommendation of the committee, has recommended a system in California; and it is believed that, under the present organization, the management of the Indians there will be improved. It is quite probable that much yet remains to be done to provide for the proper government of the Indians in other parts of the country, to encourage their industry, to encourage them to settle, and to provide for the welfare of the Indian.

The secretary reiterates his recommendations, and to them the attention of congress

The liberal provisions to the invalid soldiers and sailors of the republic, and to the widows, orphans, and dependent mothers of those who have fallen in battle, or died in the service of their country, have been diligently administered. There have been admitted to the pension rolls, during the year ending 30th day of June last, the names of 16,770 invalid soldiers and of 271 disabled seamen,—making the present number of army invalid pensioners 22,767 and of navy invalid pensioners 2,707. There have also been placed on the rolls 1,298 widows, orphans and mothers, 22,198 have been placed on the army pension rolls, and 248 on the navy rolls. The present number of army pensioners is 22,767, of navy 2,707, 433, and of navy pensioners 793. At the beginning of the year, the number of revolutionary pensioners was 135. Only twelve died during the year, and 121 have been added since died. The remainder are those who under the law, receive pensions because of relationship to revolutionary soldiers. During the year ending 30th of June, 1868, \$450,616 has been paid to pensioners of all classes.

**THE WAR.**

The war continues. Since the last annual message all the important lines and phases of the campaign have been maintained, and our armies have steadily advanced, thus liberating the states left in the rear, so that Missouri, Kentucky, Tennessee and parts of other states have again produced reasonably fair crops.

**GEN. SHERMAN'S EXPEDITION.**

The most remarkable feature in the military history of the war has been the successful attempt made by three hundred miles directly through the insurgent regions to reach the Gulf of Mexico. It tends to show a great increase of confidence in the general-in-chief, who should feel able to confront and hold in check every active force of the enemy, and yet to detach a well-appointed army to operate against him without his consent. The result not yet known, or conjecture in regard to it is not here indulged in.

"LOYAL STATE GOVERNMENTS WITH FREELY ELECTED LEGISLATURES AND JUDICIALS."

**CONSTITUTIONS.**

Important movements have also occurred during the year. At the effect of molding the constitutions of the various States

though short of complete success, it is much in the right direction that 12,000 citizens in each of the states of Arkansas and Louisiana have signed the 121 resolutions governments with free constitutions, and are earnestly struggling to maintain and administer them. The movement in the latter three states, more extensive, less definite, in Missouri, Kentucky, and Tennessee, should not be overlooked; but the great success is in Maryland, where the slavery question. Maryland is square to the right and united for the future. The genius of rebellion will no more claim Maryland. The people feel spirit. A strong drive now will seek to tear apart, but it will woo be no more.

**CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ABOLISHING SLAVERY.**

At the last session of congress a proposed amendment of the constitution, abolishing slavery, was passed by the house, and passed the senate, but failed, for lack of the requisite two-thirds vote, in the house of representatives. Although the measure was defeated, it was not by the same members, without questioning the wisdom or patriotism of those who

stood in opposition, I venture to recommend the affirmative side to the consideration of the present session. Of course the abstract question is not changed, but an intervention of this kind is almost certainly indicated. I am not, however, in a position to say, are, if this does not; hence there is only the question of time as to when the proposition amendment will go to the states for their consideration, as it is to be taken up by them. We regard that the sooner the better. It is not claimed that the election has imposed a duty on members to change their position, nor is it said that the affirmative element is to be considered as having its judgment may be affected by it. It is the voice of the people, now for the first time, that is to be heard, and it is the duty of all who are like this, unanimity of action among those seeking a common end is very desirable, almost indispensable, and yet not essential. If the affirmative side is to be opposed, such a difference shall be paid to the will of the majority, simply because it is the will of the majority. In this case the affirmative side is to be considered as the majority, and, among the means to secure this end, such will, through the election, has been most clearly declared in favor of such course.

**THE SELECTION—PURPOSE OF THE PEOPLE TO MAINTAIN THE UNION.**

Judging by the recent canvass and its results, the purpose of the people within the loyal states to maintain the integrity of the union was never more firm or more near unanimous than now.

The extraordinary calmness and good order with which the millions of voters met and mingled at the polls gave strong evidence of this. No party was so much supported as the union ticket, so called, but great majority of the opposing party also may be fairly claimed to be actuated by the same purpose.

It is not necessary to repeat the oft-repeated argument that no candidate for any office, whatever, high or low, has ventured to seek votes on the avowed that he was for giving up the union.

There have been much impugning motives and much heated controversy as the proper means and best mode of advancing the union cause; but in the distribution of men or no men, the pollsters